

Amherst Recycling & Refuse Management Committee
Meeting Minutes • June 5, 2014, 4:30 PM
Town Hall First Floor Meeting Room

Attending:

Cristina Cox Fernandes, Susan Morrello, Arnie Alper, Craig Goff, John Root, Laurel Dickey, Brenda Kennedy, Susan Waite.

1. Approve 5/1/14 minutes – unanimously approved
2. Update on Taste of Amherst (ToA) – June 19 – 22, 2014. Susan will post a signup form for helpers in two waste tents. A local church and the Chamber of Commerce will recruit volunteers to help. Arnie suggested that one of the two proposed stations be placed at the north end. Susan explained that the two stations have already been planned for either side of the drink tent. Amend Organics will collect the compost. Vendors have been informed that all food containers must be compostable. ToA Chairperson John Thibbets (of Atkins Market), brings extra compostable containers in case any vendor needs them. Discussion around getting more cardboard recycling to happen at the ToA. Susan points out that the vendors are still grappling with using compostables. We do not want to lose vendors by requiring them to do more. Sue Morrello asks if better signage at the roll-offs would be helpful. General consensus from Committee is to try and support better recycling of cardboard. Susan Waite says the Committee will need to recruit additional volunteers and to ensure that vendors are treated respectfully. Motion to have Susan Morrello ask Steve at the transfer station if it would be cost feasible for the town to provide storage and pick up the dry clean cardboard at the ToA, and if not, to ask the Chamber to ask the trash hauler for the ToA to provide an additional covered receptacle for recycling dry, clean cardboard. Passed unanimously. Brenda volunteers to visit with vendors on Thursday during set up and Friday evening. Good idea to make contact on Saturday and or Sunday, too.
3. Waste reduction and Pay-as-You-Throw developments (continued from last month) – The possibility of applying for a technical assistance grant to access the services of Arlene Miller, DEP regional municipal assistance coordinator. Grant due in July or August. Susan W., John, Brenda and Craig (sub set) will meet with Guilford to ask if he supports applying for the grant. If yes, John will schedule a grant planning meeting with Arlene that all committee members will be invited to and which will be posted.
4. Group reports:
 - Compost – Draft of letter to restaurants shared with Committee. Committee recommended deferring the idea of a sticker/certificate program for a later endeavor. Letter will be revised. Edits and approval will go through Susan W.
 - Transfer Station/SWEF – Working group met with Guilford, listed ways that the Committee can help. Working group attempting to develop specific actions that would be helpful. Computer at Transfer Station has crashed. Attempt being made to retrieve data that had not been backed up.
 - Downtown recycling – July 1st deadline to start with downtown recycling. Alan Snow will be adding tops to trash cans and marking for recycling receptacles. There will be a press release sent out. Temporary signage is being considered. Attempting to map where the cans are/will be to maximize effectiveness.

Meeting adjourned